

Geneva, 22 June 2021



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Office of the Secretary General Dear Madam President, Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to write to you regarding the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), a global gathering for gender equality initiated by UN Women and co-chaired by the governments of France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society and youth.

The GEF is launching a set of Action Coalitions to achieve tangible results on gender equality during the UN Decade of Action (2020-2030) to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. The IPU is one of the co-leaders of the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership (FML), which aims to deliver concrete and transformative change through the empowerment of women and girl leaders, and robust action by decision-makers from across the globe.

The GEF kicked off in Mexico City in March 2021 and will culminate in Paris in July. Commemorating the 26th anniversary of the Beijing Conference, the Forum will be the largest global feminist gathering since 1995 and will bring together heads of state and government, representatives of international organizations, civil society, youth and the private sector to make concrete transformative commitments and advance gender equality around the world. A Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality will be launched.

The upcoming Paris Forum will be held online from 30 June to 2 July 2021.

Parliamentarians have a key role to play to deliver on the SDGs for all women and girls. I therefore encourage your Parliament to attend the Paris Forum and invite you to join the IPU at the following sessions:

On the sidelines of the Forum, the IPU, in collaboration with the French National Assembly and Senate, will be holding an event entitled **Parliaments Act for Equal** from 10:40 to 11:25 CEST on 2 July. The event will serve as a platform to explore cooperation and partnerships between parliaments and civil society groups, in particular youth- and girl-led movements to achieve gender equality in all areas of life, and showcase good practices on how parliaments can reach out to and amplify the voices and leadership of women. Additional information is available on the IPU website.

At a **plenary session** of the FML Action Coalition from 16:30 to 18:30 CEST on 2 July, the IPU, among other leaders, will showcase its commitments to driving transformative change through women's leadership and gender-responsive and inclusive decision-making processes.

Registration for the Paris Forum can be completed via this <u>link</u> by midnight CEST on **27 June 2021**.

I hope that members of your Parliament will be able to attend these important events.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong Secretary General